



**Council Connections**  
**Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties**  
**August 7, 2025**

**Marketing Grant Applications Now Open for  
Garrett County Small & Ag Businesses**

The Garrett County Department of Business Development is now accepting applications for two FY26 marketing grant programs designed to support business growth and visibility in Garrett County.

**1. FY26 Small Business Marketing Grant**

- Available to for-profit, non-agricultural businesses located in Garrett County with 25 or fewer employees.
- Maximum award: \$1,000 (reimbursement only)
- Required match: 10% of total project cost
- Eligible expenses include: website development, digital ads, print advertising, signage, and more.

*Note: FY25 recipients are not eligible to apply for FY26 but may reapply in FY27.*

**2. FY26 Agriculture Marketing Grant**

- Available to farms, farm-related businesses, and agricultural organizations based in Garrett County.
- Maximum award: \$1,000 (reimbursement only)
- Required match: 10% of total project cost
- Eligible expenses include: online marketing, farmers market displays (tables, canopies, etc.), advertising, signage, and more

*Note: FY25 recipients are not eligible to apply for FY26 but may reapply in FY27.*

**Important Reminders for Both Programs:**

- Grants are awarded first-come, first-served until funds are exhausted.
- All purchases must be made after written approval and within the program timeline.
- Proof of payment and purchase is required for reimbursement.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

To view complete program guidelines and access application materials, please visit the following links:

[FY26 Small Business Marketing Grant](#)

[FY26 Agricultural Marketing Grant](#)

If you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out directly to the Garrett County Department of Business Development at [www.garrettcountymd.gov](http://www.garrettcountymd.gov).

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
**Professional Grant Writing Services & Grant Implementation**  
**Western Maryland Brownfields Assessment Grant**

**Due Date and Time:**

August 29, 2025 by 12:00 noon ET

**Deadline to Submit Questions:**

August 12, 2025 by 12:00 noon ET

**Deliver documents to:**

Elizabeth Stahlman, Executive Director  
Tri County Council for Western Maryland  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
[elizabeth@tccwmd.org](mailto:elizabeth@tccwmd.org)

**Introduction & Background**

The Tri County Council for Western Maryland is seeking a qualified environmental and/or planning consulting firm to provide assistance with:

- (1) Development and submission of an application for an EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant on behalf of Tri County Council for Western Maryland for environmental assessment, planning, and community engagement activities in the target areas of Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties in Maryland.

(2) Implementation of the environmental assessment, planning, and community engagement activities should the EPA Brownfields Assessment be awarded.

The U.S. EPA defines brownfields as "properties that contain or may contain a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant, complicating efforts to expand, redevelop or reuse them." Tri County Council for Western Maryland is seeking funding from the U.S. EPA for assessment, community engagement, and planning activities on brownfields sites in areas identified as target areas and throughout its geographic service area. Tri County Council for Western Maryland will be the lead project manager of the intended grant award.

Follow [this link](#) for complete details.

### **Tri-County Council for Western Maryland Seeking Responses to Regional Business Loan Programs' Survey**

The Tri-County Council for Western Maryland (TCCWMD) is reaching out to the business community in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties because ***your feedback*** is important! We hope you'll take 5 minutes to complete [this short survey](#) by Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The TCCWMD is embarking on a journey to examine its business loan programs and the purpose behind its role as a financial lender in the region. Your input in this process is **critical**.

The TCCWMD has served this region for over 50 years, supporting regional economic and community development initiatives throughout Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties. It has evolved, adapted, and grown over that time, and TCCWMD knows it must continue to do so to ensure the needs of our region are addressed in a strategic, impactful, and intentional way.

With that in mind, TCCWMD has hired [PPR Strategies](#) to support its efforts to examine its **two loan programs** - the Revolving Loan Program and the SLoT program. TCCWMD's goal through this process is to clearly define its role and purpose in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in Western Maryland to ensure its loan programs are designed to address real needs and financing gaps in the communities it serves.

That's why we need to hear from you! Input from the business community will help us better understand business financing needs in our region and how TCCWMD can adapt its programs and engagement in the region to meet **your** needs.



ARC is excited to co-host our annual conference, **Appalachian Places: Growing Local Economies**, with the State of Maryland. Join us at **Frostburg State University** in Frostburg, Maryland on **October 6-7, 2025!**

**Registration will open today at 3:00pm.**

This year, our annual conference will focus on growing place-based economies. Attendees will hear from Appalachian leaders on these programming tracks:

- Creating Paths for Future Success
- Leveraging Local Assets to Drive Economies
- Training Workers for Shifting Economies
- Igniting Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Fostering Community Well-Being



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**Cybersecurity: Building Out with Strategy 2025 for the Remainder of the Year**

August 20, 2025

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

**The One Big Beautiful Bill For Business Owners**

August 25, 2025

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Cost: Free

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

Visit the [SBDC Training Calendar](#) for more Event Opportunities

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland | 301-689-1300  
11 S. Lee Street, Cumberland, MD 21502 | [www.tccwmd.org](http://www.tccwmd.org)

